

Interview Summary

Application No.

10/642,941

Applicant(s)

STEVENS, CARLILE R.

Examiner

Thuy V. Tran

Art Unit

2821

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Thuy V. Tran. (3)_____.

(2) Mr. Roger A. Marrs. (4)_____.

Date of Interview: 09/09/2004.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.
If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 1-10.

Identification of prior art discussed: none.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: See Continuation Sheet.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.


Examiner's signature, if required

Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

Continuation of Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: A teleconference was held to discuss about the corrections to be made to the disclosure of the claimed invention, including the specification, abstract, claims, and drawings, to correct grammatical errors, to improve antecedent basis, and to resolve 112-issues, for a proper characterization of the claimed invention, resulting in an authorized Examiner's Amendment including:

* In the Abstract:

Replace the original Abstract with the following new Abstract:

--A ballasting circuit is configured with a circuit having a capability of providing an isolated power supply to various external ballast accessories that interface with a circuit or device for determining the amount of illumination. The ballasting circuit also has a capability of providing isolated power for circuitry within itself such that they can be connected to communication wires external to a lighting fixture without the need of an additional power supply. The ballasting circuit includes one or more gas discharge lighting devices, a source of input power, an electronic ballasting circuit having a regulated direct current requirement and coupled between the one or more gas discharge lighting devices and the source of input power, a heater transformer, a low voltage direct current power supply, a switching device, a regulator circuit, a full wave rectifier, and windings.--;

* In the specification:

Page 1, delete "Priority Claimed on SN.60-281,841 filed 4-6-01 (ABANDONED) and Continuation in part of patent application SN. 10/104,076 filed 3-21-02 (PENDING)" and insert --This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial Number 10/104,076 filed 03/21/2002, which is now U.S. Patent No. 6,628,093; which claims the benefit of provisional application Serial Number 60/281,841 filed on 04/06/2001 and now abandoned-- therefor;

Page 3, line 3, change "it's" to -its--;

Page 3, line 17, change "." to --;--- after "FIGURE 6";

Page 3, line 24, change "." to --; and-- after "isolator";

Page 3, line 26, insert --.-- after "FIGURE 7";

* In the claims:

Claim 1, line 5, insert --one or more-- between "said" (first occurrence) and "gas"; change "device" to --devices--; and change "." to --;--;

Claim 1, line 11, change "nearly" to --substantially--;

Claim 1, line 12, insert --one or more-- between "said" and "gas";

Claim 1, line 13, change "consisting of" to --comprising--; insert --one-- between "and" and "capacitor"; and insert --substantially-- between "the" and "square";

Claim 1, line 14, insert --a-- between "provide" and "proper"; and insert --one or more-- between "said" and "gas";

Claim 1, line 17, change "the" to --an--; and insert --one or more-- between "said" and "gas"; and change "." to --;--;

Claim 1, starting from the line following line 17, add:

--a heater transformer having a primary winding effectively connected across a connection between said impedance network and said one or more gas discharge lighting devices, and secondary windings as required to drive one or more heaters within said one or more gas discharge lighting devices incorporated as part of said heater transformer; a low voltage direct current power supply to provide power to said controlling device as well as switching power to said controllable output direct current -to- alternating current inverter;

a switching device connected to an output of said alternating current -to- direct current conversion means to supply power to said low voltage direct current power supply when operation first commences; and

an additional winding on said heater transformer with its output rectified to produce direct current to supply said low voltage direct current power supply after operation has commenced with said switching device, that is connected to the output of said alternating -to- direct current conversion means, biased into a non-conduction mode by the rectified output of said additional winding on said heater transformer.--;

Claim 2: canceled;

Claim 3: canceled;

Claim 4: canceled;

Claim 5: canceled;

Claim 6: canceled;

Claim 7: canceled;

Claim 8, line 1, change "7" to --1--;

Claim 8, line 2, insert --one or more-- between "said" and "gas";

Claim 8, line 4, insert --one or more-- between "said" and "gas";

Claim 9, line 1, change "7" to --1--;

Claim 9, line 4, insert --a-- in front of "full";

Claim 10, line 4, change "the" to --an--;

Claim 10, line 6, insert --having-- between "resistor" and "values";

Claim 10, line 7, change "the" to --a--;

Claim 10, line 8, change "with its" to --having a--; change "forth" to --fourth--; and change "the" to --a--;

Claim 10, line 9, change "its" to --a--;

Claim 10, line 10, change "the" (first occurrence) to --an--;

Claim 10, line 13, change "forth" to --fourth--; insert --a common of-- between "and" (second occurrence) and "said" (second occurrence); and change "supply's common" to --supply--;

Claim 10, line 16, insert --said-- between "for" and "first" (second occurrence);

Claim 10, line 18, change "the" to --a--;

Claim 10, line 21, change "with its" to --having a--;

Claim 10, line 23, insert --having a-- between "comparator" and "positive";

Claim 10, line 24, change "the" to --an--.

* In the drawings:

Fig. 1: labeled as --PRIOR ART--.

Applicant was reminded that a replacement set of drawings including all Figs. 1-8 with (1) corrected label Prior Art to Fig. 1, (2) all figures separate from each other (not too close as originally filed), and (3) legible reference numerals to Figs. 1-8 must be submitted.

Since the agreement was reached and the Examiner was authorized to make the amendment, it would not be necessary for Applicant to file or provide a separate statement of the substance of this interview.